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Under the Paperwork Reduction Act of 1995, no persons are required to respond to a collection of information unless it displays a valid OMB control number. **Application Number** 10/517,629 Filing Date **TRANSMITTAL December 13, 2004** First Named Inventor **FORM Gunther SCHOFFNER** Art Unit 2831 (to be used for all correspondence after initial filing) Examiner Name C. N. Nguyen Attorney Docket Number Total Number of Pages in This Submission 449122078500 ENCLOSURES (Check all that apply) After Allowance Communication Fee Transmittal Form Drawing(s) Appeal Communication to Board of Fee Attached Licensing-related Papers Appeals and Interferences Appeal Communication to TC x | Amendment/Reply Petition (Appeal Notice, Brief, Reply Brief) Petition to Convert to a x After Final **Proprietary Information Provisional Application** Power of Attorney, Revocation Affidavits/declaration(s) Status Letter Change of Correspondence Address X Other Enclosure(s) (please Identify below): Extension of Time Request **Terminal Disclaimer** Return Receipt Postcard Request for Refund **Express Abandonment Request** Information Disclosure Statement CD, Number of CD(s) Certified Copy of Priority Landscape Table on CD Document(s) Reply to Missing Parts/ Remarks Incomplete Application Reply to Missing Parts under 37 CFR 1.52 or 1.53 SIGNATURE OF APPLICANT, ATTORNEY, OR AGENT Firm Name Signature Printed name Kevin R. Spivak

Reg. No.

43.148

Date

September 25, 2006



Docket No.: 449122078500

(PATENT)

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Patent Application of: Gunther SCHOFFNER

Application No.: 10/517,629

Confirmation No.: 5679

Filed: December 13, 2004

Art Unit: 2831

For: CONNECTING ELEMENT FOR A

Examiner: C. N. Nguyen

MECHANICALLY AND ELECTRICALLY

CONDUCTIVE CONNECTION

AMENDMENT AFTER FINAL ACTION UNDER 37 C.F.R. 1.116

MS AF Commissioner for Patents P.O. Box 1450 Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Dear Sir:

INTRODUCTORY COMMENTS

This is in response to the final Office Action dated July 25, 2006, for which a response was due on September 25, 2006. This response is filed within two months of the issuance of the final Office Action and therefore qualifies for expedited review. Accordingly, this response is timely filed. Reconsideration and allowance of the pending claims, as amended, in light of the remarks presented herein are respectfully requested.

Amendments to the Claims are reflected in the listing of claims which begins on page 2 of this paper.

Remarks/Arguments begin on page 4 of this paper.